

AVIATION SERVICES

Terminal Airdrome Forecast (TAF)

- The TAF is issued at 00Z, 06Z, 12Z, and 18Z and is forecast for the next 24 hours.
- The LAX TAF is now available for the next 30 hours.
- The forecast is valid for a radius of five statute miles from the airport.
- It includes surface wind direction and speed, surface visibility, weather, and cloud coverage (few, scattered, etc.) and levels as well as the time to expect these conditions.
- As weather conditions change, amendments may be issued.

http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/scn08-15_30hr_taf.txt

KLAX 251747Z 2518/2624 07008KT P6SM
SCT110 SCT250

FM252000 24006KT P6SM SCT060 BKN100
FM260000 12007KT 5SM -SHRA BR OVC025
FM260400 10007KT 3SM RA BR OVC015
FM261400 10010KT 2SM RA BR OVC015=

Aviation Forecast Discussion

A concise discussion of local weather conditions affecting aircraft operations over San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. With a specific discussion for both Los Angeles International Airport (KLAX) and Bob Hope Airport (KBUR).

<http://www.weather.gov/view/validProds.php?prod=AFD&node=KLOX>



AVIATION WEATHER CENTER



Valuable aviation information can be obtained from the NWS Aviation Weather Center website including forecasts (such as turbulence and icing forecasts), advisories (such as SIGMETs and AIRMETS), observations (such as PIREPs) and graphical forecasts. The site can be accessed by going to the following URL:

<http://aviationweather.gov>



The Front is a newsletter published by the National Weather Service (NWS). The mission of *The Front* is to enhance aviation safety by increasing the pilot's knowledge of weather systems and processes, and NWS products and services.

<http://aviationweather.gov/general/pubs/front/>



Piper Twin Comanche taking off with a shelf cloud and gust front from a approaching thunderstorm.

AVIATION DIGITAL DATA SERVICE (ADDS)

The ADDS site provides a very convenient one stop location for all your aviation weather needs. It makes available text, digital and graphical forecasts, analyses, and observations of aviation-related weather variables.

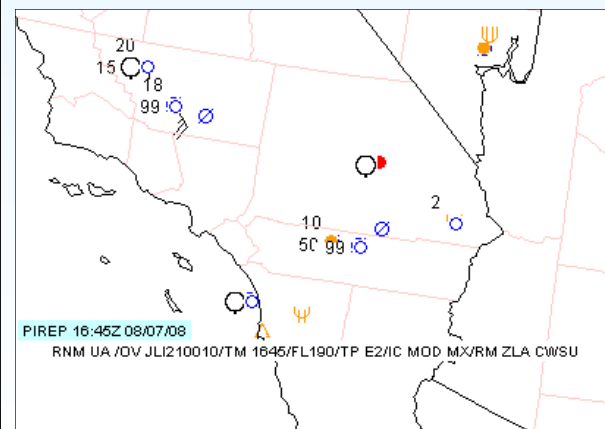
<http://adds.aviationweather.noaa.gov>

Many powerful interactive tools are available for the display of many important aviation parameters. Some of these tools are:

- Convective (NCWF) Java Tool
- METARs Java Tool
- TAFs Java Tool
- AIR/SIGMETs Java Tool
- PIREPs Java Tool

In addition a powerful flight planning tool is available. It allows you to view data along your route of flight. You can view graphical displays of icing, turbulence, temperature, winds, humidity, AIRMETS, METARs, TAFs, etc. both horizontally and vertically along your route of flight.

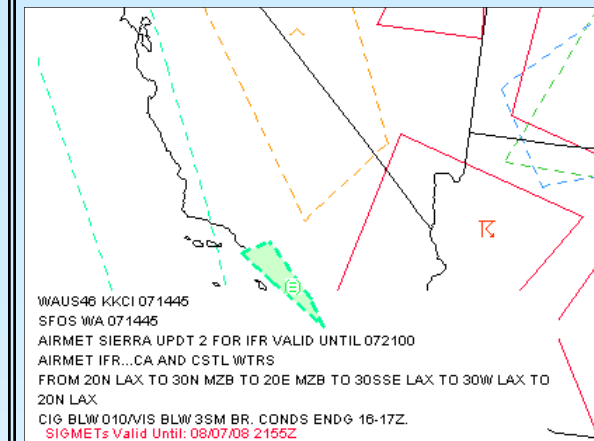
http://adds.aviationweather.noaa.gov/flight_path/



ADDS Java PIREP Tool

ADDS Java PIREP tool displaying all PIREPs within the last three hours and providing a mouse-over text read out of an icing report.

ADDS Java SIGMET AIRMET Tool



ADDS Java SIGMET AIRMET tool displaying current aviation advisories with mouse-over displaying the text of an IFR AIRMET for Southern California.

AIRMET: An AIRMET (AIRman's METeological Information) advises of weather, other than convective activity, that may be hazardous to single engine aircraft, other light aircraft, and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) pilots.

SIGMET: A SIGMET (SIGNificant METeological Information) advises of weather potentially hazardous to all aircraft other than convective activity.

CONVECTIVE SIGMET: Convective SIGMETs are weather advisories concerning convective weather significant to the safety of all aircraft.



METAR

- Aviators can also utilize Meteorological Aviation Reports (METAR) to determine current weather information at an airport for their operations.
- A weather observing system called Automated System Observation System (ASOS) or a certified weather observer produces observations once or more an hour depending on how quickly the weather is changing.
- Pilots can use radio signals to obtain data directly from the observing system at the end of the runway.
- The ASOS unit measures the following weather elements:
 - Wind (Speed and Direction) Temperature
 - Visibility Dew Point Temperature
 - Weather Conditions and Obscurations
 - Altimeter (Atmospheric Pressure)
 - Sky Conditions (Cloud Cover)
 - Precipitation
 - Remarks

Example of a METAR from LAX

KLAX 222050Z 28010KT 7SM FEW015 23/15
A2991 AO2 SLP127 T02280150 58005



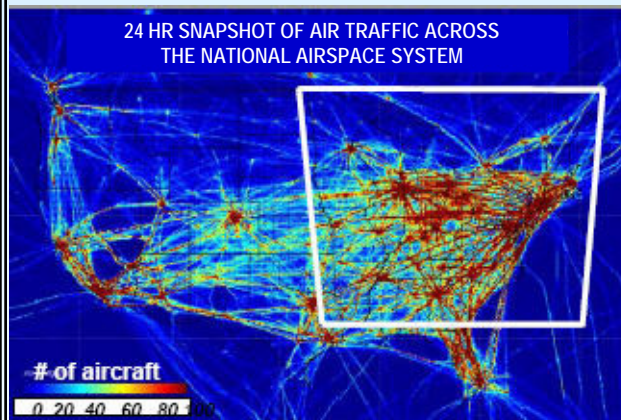
Santa Barbara Airport ASOS

CWSU Palmdale

The Palmdale Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) is co located with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Palmdale Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). The CWSU is staffed by a team of National Weather Service Meteorologists. Our office is open seven days a week from 5:30 am until 9:00 pm.

The CWSU uses a variety of weather computers and other sophisticated equipment to provide weather forecasts and hazardous weather advisories to the FAA and the aviation industry.

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/zla/>



PILOT'S GUIDE TO AVIATION WEATHER SERVICES



The National Weather Service provides free-of-charge an informative brochure describing aviation weather and it's effect on aircraft operations it also provides specific details on many of the National Weather Services aviation products and services.

Pilots are encouraged to download this publication by using the following link:

<http://www.weather.gov/om/brochures/pilot.htm>

NWS MISSION

The NWS mission is to provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas for the protection of life and property, and the enhancement of the national economy.



The National Weather Service (NWS) is a federal agency under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is part of the Department of Commerce (DOC).

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Cover photo:

Boeing 737 departure out of Burbank Airport



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LOS ANGELES/OXNARD



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